

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application, of which, claims 6-7 have been withdrawn.

I. The Claims Comply With 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for not complying with the written description requirement. More specifically, the Office Action indicates that the claims are rejected because the specification does not support the claimed order of "cleaning, forming the banks, and dispersing liquid droplets." Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The cited language from the claims finds support, for example, in Paragraph [0031]. Paragraph [0031] discloses, in relation to Fig. 1, that the pattern forming method includes a cleaning process, and, in relation to Fig. 2, that the pattern formation process includes a bank forming process and a material dispersing process.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

II. The Claims Distinguish Over The Applied References

The Office Action (1) rejects claims 1 and 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0001050 to Miyashita et al. (Miyashita) in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-337882 to Igari et al. (Igari), and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,966,480 to Watanabe et al. (Watanabe); and (2) rejects claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Miyashita in view of Igari and Watanabe, and further in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. 60-139454 to Ozaki et al. (Ozaki). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

The Office Action cites to the February 22, 2007 Office Action for the rationale of the rejections. Regarding independent claims 1 and 2, as set forth in the February 22, 2007 Office Action, the rejections (i) rely on Miyashita as disclosing the pattern forming process; (ii) rely on Igari as disclosing use of a solvent to clean the inkjet head; (iii) rely on Watanabe

as disclosing (a) that water can be used as a solvent, and (b) that a solvent contained in the functional solution can be used to clean the ink passage; and (iv) allege that it would have been obvious to clean the inkjet head multiple times. Claim 2 is additionally rejected over Ozaki, which is relied upon for disclosing the use of a storage solution.

Further, in the response to arguments section, the Office Action (i) states that Watanabe is used solely for disclosing the use of a solvent that is part of the functional solution; (ii) alleges that the use of purified water instead of regular water is not a patentable difference; (iii) alleges that the use of purified water would have been obvious to avoid the contamination of the EL element; and (iv) alleges that the use of multiple cleaning steps would have been obvious and alleges that this allegation is not based on Applicant's specification.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 2, Miyashita fails to disclose or suggest a method comprising the following steps performed in the following order: (1) "filling a passage ...with purified water;" (2) "filling the passage with a solvent dissolving both a solvent contained in the functional solution and the purified water;" (3) "filling the passage with the solvent contained in the functional solution;" and (4) "filling the passage with the functional solution." Igari, Watanabe, and Ozaki fail to cure the deficiencies of Miyashita because (a) at best, Igari and Watanabe, under the Office Action's rationale, only disclose a single cleaning step; (b) one of ordinary skill would not have modified the single cleaning step of the applied references to be three cleaning steps; and (c) even if it is deemed to have been obvious to use three cleaning steps as alleged by the Office Action, the use of the specific claimed steps are not supported by the applied references taken as a whole and thus can only have resulted in the Office Action having used impermissible hindsight using Applicant's own disclosure.

Igari and Watanabe each disclose only one cleaning step using one solvent. Thus, because the Office Action admits that Watanabe is used to modify the solvent disclosed by

Igari to be a solvent of the functional liquid, at best, the Office Action's alleged combination results in the single cleaning step of Igari, modified by the composition disclosed by Watanabe. The steps of cleaning by purified water and of filling the inkjet head by the solvent alone are not disclosed.

Further, because Igari and Watanabe each disclose only a single cleaning step, it would not have been obvious to use three or more steps as alleged by the Office Action because one of ordinary skill would have believed, as taught by Igari and Watanabe, that a single cleaning step would be sufficient.

However, even if it is deemed to have been obvious to use three cleaning steps as alleged by the Office Action, the use of the specific steps of cleaning by purified water, cleaning by a solvent dissolving the solvent in the functional solution and purified water, and then filling the passage with the solvent of the functional solution as claimed are not disclosed or suggested by the applied references and can only be explained by the Office Action's reliance on Applicant's disclosure.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejections.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JHB/axl

Attachment:
Request for Continued Examination

Date: July 18, 2007

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